E88

peter Visits Cornelius

BIBLE BACKGROUND

Meet Cornelius

This passage begins at the home of Cornelius, a passage begins at the headquarters for Roman occupation of that area. As a centurion, the Roman occupation of that area. As a centurion, where Roman occupation in charge of a unit of cornelius would have been in charge of a unit of cornelius would have been in charge of a unit of cornelius would have been in charge of a unit of cornelius would have been in charge of a unit of cornelius would have been in charge of a unit of cornelius would have been in charge of a unit of cornelius, a passage begins at the home of Cornelius, a passage begins at the headquarters for passage passage begins at the headquarters for passage p

For a non-Jew to have been considered God-fearing meant that Cornelius followed the Jewish religion to meant that Cornelius followed the Jewish religion to meant that Cornelius followed the Jewish religion to the angel at about three as a non-Jew. His vision of the angel at about three as a non-Jew. His vision of the angel at about three in the afternoon likely means that he was following in the afternoon likely means that was a regular Jewish religious practices since that was a regular Jewish religion to meant that he was following in the angel at about three as a non-Jew.

God Speaks: A Tale of Two Visions

Peter was following normal Jewish religious practices, among which was the strict adherence to the dietary restrictions spelled out in Leviticus 11. Many of the forbidden animals described there were included in the sheet suspended before Peter in his vision. Being told to kill and eat "unclean" animals shocked Peter.

The challenge to Peter's beliefs didn't end when the sheet disappeared. It was obviously no coincidence that Cornelius' servants appeared just as Peter's vision ended. Peter was thinking through the meaning of his vision when he was summoned to go to the house of a non-Jew. The servants said that an angel had told Cornelius to send for Peter to hear what he had to say.

And God made it clear to Peter that the servants' arrival was connected to what God was trying to leach him. God told him that the men were there, that he had sent them, and that Peter was to go with them.

Peter knew that the vision concerned much more than food.

The Jesus Connection

Peter took a huge risk in following God's leading to reach out to Cornelius and his family. Peter followed God's leading without hesitation because Jesus was the cornerstone of his life.

Peter set an example for us by taking advantage of an opportunity to tell someone unexpected about his faith. We dare not ignore that example; rather, we must be willing to tell anyone who is interested about what God has done for us through Jesus. Pray and ask God to show you how you can share your faith and God's love. You can write your prayer here.

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Tell about someone you



powerful aspect of this story is watching Cornelius was a devout man. Peter was God's hand. God knew that the Centiles needed to hear the gospel and that Peter Cornelius being visited by an angel and eter having a vision—the Gentiles heard response to the question "Who should we a man who strove to tell others about was the man to give the message. So, the message of Jesus. Imagine Peter's tell about Jesus?" It probably changed Jesus. Their lives intersected for the after this experience. Peter went from through a series of unusual eventsconsidering Centiles unclean and sake of the gospel. The most

Monday Isaiah 5:21

the person God used to speak the message of Jesus to those people.

· How does this passage encourage you to tell others about Jesus?

unworthy of salvation to being

How does our own wisdom cloud our ability to see the real outcasts around us?

Tuesday
Isaiah 12:4-6
• Is this an accurate speech
you might give to someone
who doesn't know Jesus? How might you include thankfulness in what you

Wednesday

Haggai 1:7 Which part of your life deserves careful thought before you head out to tell people about Jesus?

Thursday

James 2:5

What do poor people in your community have that you

Friday 1 John 2:15

How can loving God prepare you to tell others about him?

Saturday

1 Corinthians 9:27

How do our actions affect the message we have to share?

This week brainstorm a list of people your family knows who don't go to church. Pick one family and invite them to church. Alternately, invite the family over for dinner, and get to know them in order to lay the groundwork for a church invitation at a later time.

Daily Challenge

Choose a way you'll tell others about a relationship with Jesus this week:

- Choose one of your ideas from "Reaching and Teaching" on your Bible Buzz page, and do that thing!
- Have one of your parents come up with arguments people might give you when you talk about believing in Jesus. Practice coming up with your answers to those arguments, so you're prepared when you share your faith with someone.
- Take one of the ideas you wrote on a sticky note and use that to talk to someone about Jesus this week

PheWORL for the Week

Bible Point

Tell everyone about Jesus.